



# WEATHER CROP

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Week ending July 15, 2007

## RAINS AIDED CROP GROWTH

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Rainfall during the week of July 9 through 15 aided crop growth in many Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Rainfall totaled from a tenth inch or less in Ft. Pierce, Avalon, West Palm Beach, Orlando, and Monticello, to about three inches or more in Frostproof, Pierson, Sebring, and Lake Alfred. Temperatures remained hot with the daily averages in the major cities one to three degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 90s while nighttime lows were mostly in the 70s and 80s. Many localities recorded at least one low in the upper 60s. Due to the scattered nature of the rainfall, many areas remain dry. Most of the recent rainfall in Jefferson County fell in southern areas and skipped the agriculture-producing areas in northern parts of the county. Despite recent rains, Lake Okeechobee remains low at just over 9 feet. The Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry reported at total of 116 active wildfires affecting 93,555,100 acres as of July 15, 2007.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanuts in some parts of Jackson County are in good condition due to recent rains with yield prospects average. Peanut condition was rated 5% very poor, 15% poor, 33% fair, 32% good, and 15% excellent. The digging of green peanuts started in Marion County. In Santa Rosa County, scattered showers skipped some areas which lowered yield potentials for cotton and peanuts. In Santa Rosa County, some cotton showed uneven stands due to delayed emergence caused by earlier dry conditions and the oldest cotton is blooming. In Gadsden County, some corn yields are expected to be about 95% of normal and most hay needs soaking rains to ensure proper growth for a first cut. Growers have not made first cuts of hay in Jefferson County due to the slow growth caused by the dry weather. Rains replenished soil moisture in scattered areas of the Panhandle, the northern and central Peninsula, and some parts of the southern Peninsula. Soil moisture ratings were very short to short for the Panhandle, Big Bend, and northern Peninsula areas, and short to adequate for the central and southern Peninsula. A few spots of surplus moisture exist in localities recently receiving copious rainfall, such as some parts of Hernando County.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
55	62	77

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	7	10	18	16	25	20
Short	27	15	36	36	28	41
Adequate	65	72	40	47	45	34
Surplus	1	3	6	1	2	5

**VEGETABLES:** Tomato picking is virtually finished in the Quincy area. Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County. Watermelon harvesting is nearly finished in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Most pasture were very poor, providing little forage compared to a normal growing season. Hay supplies were extremely low and selling livestock has become the management practice of choice. A first cutting of hay has not been possible in many hay fields. Stock pond water levels were very low. In the central areas, pastures were poor to good with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, pasture condition were very poor to excellent. In Desoto County, pasture has begun to improve following the start of summer rains. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	5	10
Poor	5	15	15	20
Fair	50	40	55	40
Good	35	40	20	25
Excellent	5	0	5	5

**CITRUS:** Daily occurrences of thunderstorms and afternoon showers developed across the citrus-producing areas this week. Three inches of rain fell in the center of the State, while other areas recorded amounts between less than one tenth of an inch to two inches. Lakes, ponds, and general water reservoirs are getting back to normal levels. Some water restrictions were eased due to the recent rains. High temperatures reached the mid to high 90s in all areas with the highest recording in Lake Alfred at 97 degrees. Cultural practices included fertilizing, applications of summer oils, copper spraying, and resetting of young trees. Trees continue to make good progress, with some new growth due to recent tropical weather. The new fruit is sizing well across the State and growers have a positive outlook for next year's crop.

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